The 2017 recipient of the NYS AHPERD Bernard E. Hughes Award is Melissa Bailey.

Melissa is being honored for her outstanding work with the National Archery in Schools Program, where she was a coordinator for nine years. The National Archery in Schools Program is a cooperative effort between state conservation departments, school systems and private organizations to help engage young citizens in outdoor activities including participating in the enduring sport of archery. Through the years, Melissa has helped inspire over 40,000 students to experience the program, and facilitated a state tournament for over 500 students. She has presented at several New York State AHPERD zone and state conferences, as well as at the National Archery in Schools Program’s annual conference. An associate stated, “Melissa is an extremely dedicated, hardworking and motivated individual. Her work with the National Archery in Schools program, largely on her own, was truly impressive and stands as one of the shining programs the Department of Environmental Conservation is involved in.” He describes Melissa as upbeat, enthusiastic and professional, and further noted, “She built a hugely successful program from the ground up.” In nominating Melissa, a colleague wrote, “Because of Melissa’s dedication and efforts, the National Archery in Schools Program has become an integral part of many New York State physical education programs.” President Wolfe, it is my honor to present to you the recipient of the 2017 Bernard E. Hughes Award, Melissa Bailey.